

¹ Those other forms comprised an In Forma Pauperis Application ("Application") and a Motion for Attorney Representation ("Motion").

Despite this Court's effort to assist Oatis in that respect, including the transmittal of a set of new Motion forms for him to fill out properly, Oatis has done nothing whatever to advance his lawsuit. In fact, just a few days after this Court's issuance of the January 27 order the Clerk's Office mailed him the USM 285 forms that were needed to enable the United States Marshals Service to execute the service of summons on Oatis' targeted defendant, his ex-employer Citizen Bar -- yet Oatis has obviously disregarded that, for the only ensuing docket entry in the case is dated fully two months later (Dkt. No. 9, entered April 3), in which the Marshals Service filed a return stating that it was unable to execute service without the USM 285 forms.

As desirous as this Court is to assist pro se litigants,² it has no responsibility to play nursemaid to a plaintiff who does not exercise reasonable diligence to pursue his own action. Accordingly, unless Oatis delivers to this Court's chambers on or before April 28 a paper Judge's Copy of a filing that he has made in the Clerk's Office explaining what steps he has taken toward moving this action forward, this action will be dismissed for want of prosecution.



Milton I. Shadur
Senior United States District Judge

Date: April 18, 2017

² It should of course be understood that this Court has expressed no view as to the substantive viability or nonviability of Oatis' lawsuit.

TAJ OATIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITIZEN BAR
364 W. Erie
Chicago, IL 60654,

Defendant.

Taj Oatis ("Oatis") has just utilized the Clerk's-Office-supplied form of "Complaint of Employment Discrimination" to bring an action charging his ex-employer Citizen Bar with having terminated him in June 2014 based on his race (Oatis is African-American) and color. Because Oatis has brought suit within 90 days after his receipt of an EEOC right-to-sue letter, it poses no question of timeliness. Instead this sua sponte memorandum order is issued because of some other problems with Oatis' submitted documents.

Next, Oatis has accompanied his Complaint with two other Clerk's-Office-supplied forms: an In Forma Pauperis Application ("Application") and a Motion for Attorney

ATTACHMENT

Representation ("Motion"). Because the Application confirms Oatis' inability to pay the filing fee for his action, it is granted. But the Motion is flawed, because Oatis has left blank the most important component of that form -- the answer to its Paragraph 2, which requires a movant to identify whatever attorneys or organizations he has attempted to obtain as his counsel, as well as the reason for his inability to find such an attorney (that information is required by our Court of Appeals as a precondition to a District Court's determination whether to grant such a motion). In that respect, although this Court does not involve itself directly in such requests, it has been made aware of a Chicago-based organization that seeks to provide access to legal services for people who cannot afford to pay a lawyer -- its acronym is CARPLS, and it lists its free legal aid hotline telephone number as 312-738-9200.

This Court is transmitting to Oatis, contemporaneously with a copy of this memorandum order, triplicate copies of the Motion form to be completed by him. Oatis must make the required effort to seek counsel, and if he is unsuccessful he should return two filled-out counterparts of the Motion to the District Court on or before February 17, 2017 -- one directed to the Clerk's Office¹ and the other to this Court's chambers.²



Milton I. Shadur
Senior United States District Judge

Date: January 27, 2017

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Chicago, Illinois 60604.

² Honorable Milton Shadur
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